

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. (currently amended) A rubber composition comprising
 - a. an elastomer selected from the group consisting of natural rubber, polyisoprene rubber, styrene butadiene rubber, polybutadiene rubber, butyl rubber, halobutyl rubber, ethylene propylene rubber, crosslinked polyethylene rubber, neoprenes, chlorinated polyethylene rubbers, silicone rubbers, thermoplastic rubber and mixtures thereof, and
 - b. at least a surfactant containing a thio functionality.
2. (Original) The rubber composition of Claim 1, wherein the surfactant further comprises a thioether.
3. (Original) The rubber composition of Claim 2, wherein the surfactant further comprises an ether thioether of the formula:
$$\text{H}_9\text{C}_4-(\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{S}-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{O})_n-\text{C}_4\text{H}_9.$$
4. (currently amended) An elastomer based rubber composition comprising per 100 parts of elastomer, ~~and~~ about 0.02-10 parts of a surfactant containing a thio functionality.
5. (currently amended) An elastomer based rubber composition comprising per 100 parts of elastomer, ~~and~~ about 0.02-10 parts of an thioether surfactant.
6. (Original) The rubber composition of Claim 4, wherein the elastomer has unsaturation in the polymer backbone.
7. (Original) The rubber composition of Claim 4 wherein the surfactant is an ether thioether of the formula:
$$\text{H}_9\text{C}_4-(\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{S}-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{O})_n-\text{C}_4\text{H}_9.$$
8. (currently amended) A vulcanized tire sidewall comprising based on 100 part of elastomer ~~and~~ about 0.02-10 parts of a surfactant containing a thio functionality.
9. (Currently amended) A tire comprising a vulcanized sidewall component comprising a ~~sulfur containing surfactant~~ surfactant containing a thio functionality.
10. (Original) A method of forming a film on the exposed surface of vulcanized rubber, comprising;
adding about 0.02-10 parts of a surfactant containing a thio functionality to a rubber composition,

curing said rubber composition,
exposing the cured rubber composition to ozone.

11. (New) The rubber composition of Claim 1, wherein the elastomer contains functional groups.
12. (New) The rubber composition of Claim 1, wherein said composition further comprises at least one reinforcing filler.
13. (New) The rubber composition of Claim 1, wherein said composition further comprises sulfur.